



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

SUMMER 2013: VOLUME 7



Museum of
disABILITY History
A PROJECT OF PEOPLE INC.

Save the Dates!

Many upcoming events are being planned by the Museum of disABILITY History so mark your calendars! All events are held at the Museum, 3826 Main Street in Buffalo (unless otherwise noted). **For more information or to volunteer, call 716.629.3626.**

Person First Forum with Rich Marino and his Helper Dog Saturday, September 7, 11 a.m.: Children's books to be read.

Membership Event and Phone-a-Thon Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m.-noon.

Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series Friday, September 27, 7 p.m.: Char Czabo Perricelli. Photography of J N Adam Developmental Center

Annual disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series Saturday, October 12, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. movie showings at Dipson Amherst Theatre, 3500 Main Street in Buffalo. Featuring the movie, *Inclusion: The Joy of Drumming*. Speaker and Reception: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Museum of disABILITY History.

Dialogues on disABILITY Saturday, October 19, 11 a.m.: Author Michael Wehmeyer will present on his book, "Good Blood, Bad Blood."

Greetings!



First, let me introduce myself. My name is Doug Farley and I'm the new kid on the block at the Museum of disABILITY History, having recently started as their new director. I'm pleased to join a great team of museum professionals who are entrusted with leading this wonderful facility and to highlight a very important part of People Inc.'s mission.

I started at the Museum of disABILITY History after completing almost 10 years of museum work as the director of the Erie Canal Discovery Center and Director of Development of Niagara County History Center. This exciting second career followed a 30-year run managing my own retail business (please don't do the math-I am still young at heart!). It's also interesting that I'm once again traveling the same route from Niagara County that I took for four years when I was truly young, pursuing my undergraduate studies at UB. I feel as if I've come full circle and it's good to be back in Buffalo once again.

As a team, the museum staff and I are working towards 10 goals and we have currently identified 30 solutions to our current challenges. Some of our goals include:

- Expanding the group of volunteers including college students;
- Increasing the number and frequency of on-site programs;
- Re-purpose space for daily on-site children's programming;
- Market to tourists;
- Forge productive collaborations;
- Increase visitation and revenue;
- Partner with editorial staff from local media outlets;
- Create exhibits that are more interactive and experiential;
- Reinvent the Museum Store to create a new profit center.

No true leader is an island unto himself or herself and this is certainly true concerning the museum's current leadership and future direction. If you feel you can play a role in working toward these goals, I would be very interested to speak with you about your ideas.

From the early days of 1998 when a planning committee was established to create a disability history museum, to 1999 when the Museum of disABILITY History opened its first exhibit, and on to the grand opening of the current modern, attractive facility in 2010, the leadership of the museum has never lost focus of its mission to increase understanding, acceptance and independence of people with disabilities. Even with all of this history of accomplishment, in true humility, I admit that we still have a long way to go to become a sustainable, premiere institution. But, we are certainly more than pleased with the momentum that has already been established and the potential that we see on the horizon. Please feel free to drop by and say hello; my door is always open and I look forward to making your acquaintance!

Best regards,

Doug Farley

Doug Farley, *Museum Director*

“I'm pleased to join a great team of museum professionals.”

Quest Scavenger Hunt

Back in the early months of spring, the Museum of disABILITY History secured enough votes to place first in a contest sponsored by OnCell Systems—a Rochester-based company that provides a full range of mobile tour solutions. As a result, the museum received a one-year subscription to a brand new type of interactive mobile touring known as the “Quest Scavenger Hunt.”

“Quest Scavenger Hunt” enables the creation of customized GPS-guided tours that lead visitors around to specific destinations within a venue or site—in this case, the Museum of disABILITY History. Once visitors arrive at these destinations, they answer questions based on the information and clues that they have gathered along the way.

Our team of Museum Docents has created two unique Quest Scavenger Hunt quizzes thus far: “Important People in disABILITY History” and “Important Events in disABILITY History”—which visitors can access using their smart-phones and a QR-Code Reader. We invite everyone to visit the Museum of disABILITY History and explore this truly interactive learning experience!



Q&A presentation by Jen Savo, of the People Inc. Elmwood Day Hab, about living with cerebral palsy. Jen spoke at the Ivan the Invacarnival Kid's Day event on August 10, 2013.

“ I learned about how (poorly) people treated people with disabilities. They would put them in an ‘Idiot Box’ or put them in jail. Edward Seguin was known as the ‘Apostle of the Idiots.’ Sometimes they would have ‘freak shows’ for people with disabilities. I thought this was wrong.”

- Roger, a grade school student

Kids Corner - share with your kids, grandkids, niece or nephew!



Our NEW Kids Corner!

Above: Stay a while and learn to sign on our new American Sign Language alphabet rug!

Left: Kids of all ages are now welcome to put on their own puppet shows while parents browse the gallery.

50% OFF Sale in the Museum Store

Imagine yourself browsing a store for the first time; you are in awe because there are items you have never seen in any other store before and you are thinking, "How have I not previously known about this?" Now imagine yourself in a comfortable atmosphere which includes an educational experience you will never forget, friendly customer service and refreshing air conditioning to take you away from the heat wave. Open your eyes and come to that place, it does exist! The Museum of disABILITY History Store has a wide variety of unique gifts that have such an exclusive status. You are in luck because until supplies last, right now some of these items are 50 percent off!

Items within the sale include, genuine Bamboo Cheese Boards (originally \$34.95-*now only \$17.48!*) which are great for displaying any type of appetizer before dinner. We are also extending this offer on our Braille jewelry (originally \$18.95-*now only \$9.48*-that's a steal!) which consist of Braille initial pendants and they even appeal to both genders! For all the golfing fanatics out there, our Nike golf balls (one sleeve of 3 *now only \$4* and one pack of 12 balls *now just \$13.98!*) and generously sized umbrellas (before \$24.95-*now \$12.48*) are on sale as well. Don't forget about the wonderfully scented candles, which are *just \$8.48* after the discount! All of these items are available to you at this incredible discount, come and see for yourself before they are all gone!

Our educational section of the store offers many different genres of literature that you surely won't want to put down. Stay tuned as we are in the process of adding even more value to our already fabulous selection of books on the topics like the history of disabilities, children's books to teach disability understanding, first person disability interpretations and much more!

The store is open in junction with the Museum, Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm. Shop by yourself, bring a friend or even the entire family-you won't be disappointed!



Can't stop in? Shop online!
store.museumofdisability.org



Advocating for people with developmental disabilities

Contributed by NYS Assemblymember Ray Walter, 146th District



Every year the state passes a budget and every year the Assembly spends days arguing over what to fund and what to cut. The most egregious part of this year's budget was a \$90 million cut to the Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) that only affected non-profit groups, like People Inc., that provide services to those with developmental disabilities. It is important to prudently protect our tax dollars, but it should never come at the

expense of helping people who need it the most. I am proud to say that I stood with many of my colleagues and voted yes on a budget amendment that would have restored these devastating cuts. Many of you have seen the videos of the impassioned pleas, including my own, on the floor of the Assembly to reject the proposed cuts and approve the amendment. Although it was defeated, we did not give up the fight to make sure that the funding was restored.

My colleagues and I continued to work together along with members of the community to find a solution and just before the end of session an agreement was reached with Governor Cuomo to restore the \$90 million cut. I especially want to recognize the work that the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY) did advocating for full restoration of funds. This will ensure that the non-profit organizations that provide critical, cost-effective services to people with developmental disabilities will be able to continue their mission.

New York State can only be truly strong if we care for those who need our help the most, and these non-profits provide an absolutely vital to the most vulnerable among us. I swore I would do everything in my power to have these funds restored and, in the end, working with some amazing families and organizations, we prevailed.

Assemblymember Ray Walter represents the 146th District which includes the towns of Amherst, Pendleton and the Village of Williamsville.

Tour Groups!

The following groups toured the Museum during the quarter:

- Batavia High School
- United Cerebral Palsy of Niagara
- Pennhurst Memorial Preservation Alliance
- Region One Training Consortium
- Medaille College
- Canisius College
- Leadership Buffalo
- Heritage Christian Services

To arrange a group tour, call 716.629.3626. See page six for group tour rates.

disABILITY History Museum Plans Membership Phone-A-Thon

The Museum of disABILITY History has planned its first Membership Phone-A-Thon on Saturday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event is intended to help the Museum swell its ranks of valued members. The public is invited to join with board members, staff and friends who will be on hand making phone calls to their family



and friends to encourage others to become members. The Museum team has a goal of adding one hundred new members through this “Telethon” style event.

Museum of disABILITY History Director Doug Farley said, “This is a win-win scenario. Your phone contacts will help the Museum to

reach its membership goal and you also get a chance to spend a few minutes talking to some old friends that you may have lost touch with over the years.”

While on site, enjoy the new “look” in the gift shop and throughout the Museum with new family friendly activities. All who stop by for the event will be entered to win an “Abandoned Asylums” book to be given away as a door prize at noon. Light refreshments will also be served. For more information, call 716.629.3601.

Volunteer at the Museum of disABILITY History!

Are you looking for a fun and interesting activity to participate in during your spare time? Do you have a passion for education and history that you would like to share with the community? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, then please consider a volunteer position at the Museum of disABILITY History in Buffalo – the only “brick and mortar” museum of its kind in the United States!

The Museum of disABILITY History is seeking volunteers for a variety of tasks, including, but not limited to: working at special events, preparing bulk mailings, working at the front desk and Museum Store and helping with research and collection projects. The best part is: you control your own schedule! You may volunteer as little as once or twice per year or you may prefer working as often as weekly or monthly. The Museum of disABILITY History is located at 3826 Main Street in Buffalo between Eggert Road and Bailey Avenue. If this sounds intriguing to you, call 716.629.3626.



Of Grave Importance

By Dave Mack-Hardiman, Photos by Nicholas DiGesare

Volunteers from the Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc. have been assisting with the restoration of the Craig Colony Cemetery, located in Sonyea. White marble headstones, engraved with the names of the deceased, have accumulated moss, lichen, and stain over the years. Our volunteers have scrubbed more than two hundred of the grave markers so far. Armed with buckets, brushes, water and, non-ionic dish detergent, our loyal group has washed away years of neglect.

There are more than 2,200 graves at the location of the former Craig Colony. Some of the markers are flush with the ground. The marble headstones are fragile and more than 200 have tipped or fallen over. The Groveland Correctional Facility, current owner of the cemetery property, is researching corrective measures to keep the headstones upright. Frames for the stones may be manufactured at the correctional facility.

While I have never heard the phrase, “gravestone therapy,” I have begun to use it this summer. After I scrubbed the first few stones, I was amazed at how good they looked. They seemed new, even though some of them are at least 100 years old. I cleaned out each of the letters of the name with a toothbrush. Other volunteers have had similar experiences.

Karen Lazik, People Inc. associate vice president, said, “I found this to be a peaceful and spiritual experience. As I begin washing each new headstone, as the dirt drips down revealing the name of the individual, I address him/her aloud, and spend time reflecting on the person and wonder what his/her life was like. I feel a certain connection to the person, even though this is someone I never met.”

Pamela King, People Inc. associate vice president, said, “I was proud and humbled to have the opportunity to work on this project and was full of emotions from compassion and empathy to pride and joy throughout the day.”

If you are interested in helping with this unique experience, please contact Dave Mack-Hardiman at 716.629.3606 or, by e-mail at dmack@people-inc.org. Work will continue in the fall and resume in the spring of 2014. An upcoming exhibit at the Museum of disABILITY History will feature an inspirational tribute to these cemeteries.



New Members!

A warm welcome to our new members:

Individual/Student

Kate Hardiman
Paulette Nowak

Family/Dual

T.J. and Meghann Perry
Mark Williams

Friend

Lin and Don Stuhler
Penny Zeplovitz

Support the Museum, Become a Member!

Want to support the Museum of disABILITY History? Membership opportunities are now available! With five different levels to choose from, you can choose the one that is right for you. All supporting membership levels are good for one year.

\$25 | Individual/Student

\$45 | Family/Dual

\$100 | Friend

\$250 | Sustainer

\$500 | Corporate

To become a member, please call 716.629.3626 or log on to our website at www.museumofdisability.org. Click on the "Support Us" tab, click on "Membership," and then "Membership Registration." Thank you for your support!

Don't forget that as a member, you receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store!

store.museumofdisability.org



"Like" the Museum of disABILITY History on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/museumofdisability

MUSEUM INFO

3826 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14226
716.629.3626

info@museumofdisability.org
www.museumofdisability.org
store.museumofdisability.org

www.facebook.com/museumofdisability
 www.twitter.com/Musedisability

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

ADMISSION

General Admission:

Adults (18 and up).....\$5.00
Students with ID, Seniors (60 and up) and
Human Service Employees with ID.....\$2.50
Children (6-17).....\$2.00
Children under 5.....FREE

Group Tour Rates:

All groups (greater than or equal to 10 people): \$4 per person
Rental of the KeyBank Room (1st Floor, up to 20 people):
\$50 fee added to the total amount per person
Rental of the Main Training Room (2nd Floor w/ elevator
access, up to 80 people): \$100 fee added to the total amount
per person

2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Palumbo

Chairperson
Chief Administrative Officer, People Inc.

Alexandra Wehr

Treasurer
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Dr. David Gerber

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State University of New York at Buffalo

Doreen Dell

Adjunct Professor,
Buffalo State College

Frederick J. Zazycki Retired,

Director NYS Department of Mental
Hygiene

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of disABILITY History advances the understanding, acceptance, and independence of people with disabilities. The Museum's exhibits, collections, archives and educational programs create awareness and a platform for dialogue and discovery.

STAFF

Doug Farley - *Museum Director*
David Mack-Hardiman - *Associate Vice President*
Douglas Platt - *Museum Curator*
Pamela Formoso - *Museum Store Manager*
Thomas Stearns - *Research Assistant*

DOCENT STAFF

Janet McNevin - *Employment Specialist*
Maria Bell - *Docent*
Charles Degraffenried - *Docent*
Anthony LaBarbera - *Docent*
Israel Cruz - *Docent*

From the Docents Desk

The Museum of disABILITY History Docents have been hard at work! Over the past three months, they have toured a total of 217 visitors and new employees. In addition, the Docents have cataloged a large collection of video tapes from People Inc.'s Training Department into the Museum's PastPerfect Software.

Recently, our curator asked the docents to develop a creative way for people to learn the information on our newest Traveling Exhibit, "Little Differences: The Portrayal of Children with disABILITIES Throughout History." The Docents, excited to use their knowledge to come up with a fun game, made a kind of *Where's Waldo* game for visitors to play. The game, named "Where Am I?" consists of a list of people and a map, and varies in difficulty depending on one's age. Participants are instructed to examine the exhibit and find the people on the list and then place the letter with the corresponding spot on the map. Some have two locations to make it a little harder on the participant.

The age group of 5-8 is given the list with pictures to help them. Their list only consists of seven people and there are four different sets of names. The age group of 9-12 is given only the names and the map. Their list contains two separate sets, consisting of about thirteen people. The age group of 13



Curator Douglas Platt shares information about collection items with docent Charles Degraffenried.

and up is given a series of questions about the "Little Differences" exhibit and the rest of the Museum.

The Museum Docents hope that many visitors will tour and enjoy their creative new game. Please feel free to stop by and visit our hard-working Docents.

“ As a future teacher of children with disabilities, I learned a lot of history that helped build the foundation of special education today.”

- Student from Medaille College (The Foundations of Special Education graduate level class from Medialle College recently received a tour at the Museum of disABILITY History)
